

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 16 of 1880.

NATIVE PAPERS

ON THE

Week ending the 17th April 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>			
1	" Bhárat Shramajíví "	Calcutta	2,100	
2	" Grámvártá Prakáshiká "	Comercolly	175	Mágh 1286 B.S.
3	" Sansodhini "	Chittagong	600	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>			
4	" Purva Pratidhwani "	Ditto	11th April 1880.
5	" Rajshahye Samvád "	Rajshahye	31	
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
6	" Ananda Bazar Patriká "	Calcutta	700	6th ditto.
7	" Arya Darpan "	Ditto	9th and 16th April 1880.
8	" Bhárat Mihir "	Mymensingh	671	6th April 1880.
9	" Bengal Advertiser "	Calcutta	2,000	
10	" Bardwán Sanjívaní "	Bardwán	296	6th ditto.
11	" Dacea Prakásh "	Dacea	350	11th ditto.
12	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	745	9th ditto.
13	" Hindu Hitaishiní "	Dacca	300	10th ditto.
14	" Hindu Ranjiká "	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	7th ditto.
15	" Howrah Hitakarí "	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	" Mediní "	Midnapore	250	
17	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Berhampore	
18	" Navavibhákar "	Calcutta	850	12th ditto.
19	" Pratikár "	Berhampore	275	
20	" Rangpore Dik Prakásh "	Kákiniá, Rangpore	250	8th ditto.
21	" Sádháraní "	Chinsurah	500	11th ditto.
22	" Sahachar "	Calcutta	500	12th ditto.
23	" Samálochak "	Ditto	1,000	16th ditto.
24	" Samáchár Sár "	Allahabad	350	
25	" Sanjívaní "	Mymensingh	260	
26	" Sulabha Samáchár "	Calcutta	4,000	10th ditto.
27	" Shárad Kaumudí "	Bhowanipore	300	
28	" Srihatta Prakásh "	Sylhet	440	5th ditto.
	<i>Tri-weekly.</i>			
29	" Samáchár Sudhávarshan "	Calcutta	
	<i>Daily.</i>			
30	" Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	700	10th to 13th April 1880.
31	" Samvád Púrnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	10th to 15th ditto.
32	" Samáchár Chandriká "	Ditto	625	8th, 11th, 13th, and 16th April 1880.
33	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Ditto	500	10th to 13th April 1880.
34	" Prabháti "	Ditto	6th, 7th, 9th to 14th, and 16th April 1880.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
35	" Murshidábád Patriká "	Berhampore	487	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
36	" Urdu Guide "	Calcutta	365	10th April 1880.
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
37	" Behár Bandhu "	Bankipore, Patna	500	8th ditto.
38	" Bhárat Mitra "	Calcutta	500	8th ditto.
39	" Jagat Mitra "	Ditto	157	14th ditto.
40	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	Ditto	200	12th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
41	" Jám-Jahán-numá "	Ditto	250	9th ditto.

POLITICAL.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 6th, 1880.

THE Burdwani Sanjivani, of the 6th April, remarks that with every succeeding day affairs at Cabul are becoming increasingly complicated. It is now nearly

two years since the troubles in that region commenced, and yet there is no satisfactory settlement arrived at. The announcement recently made by Mr. Lepel Griffin does not throw any light on the future of Cabul. It is apprehended that anarchy and disorder will long reign in that country. The rest of the observations contained in the article correspond with those noticed in paragraph 6 of our last report.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

2. Why are we, asks the same paper, troubling ourselves so much about the results of the elections that are now going on? Are we in any way interested

in the ascendancy of any particular party? Before answering this question, it seems necessary to observe that the task of carrying on the Government of India is entrusted to the followers of the Prime Minister, and that they do their work under his instructions; hence the desire to know what party wins at the elections becomes natural. It matters little whether the Liberals or the Conservatives come out victorious in the contest; we shall pray for the success of that party which will consult the interests of this country. We have seen that India has suffered much from the ascendancy of the Conservatives during the last few years. How can we, with such measures before our eyes as the Vernacular Press Act and the Arms Act, the sacrifice of the revenues by the remission of the cotton duties, the throwing of the whole cost of the Afghan war on the shoulders of India, and the diversion of public funds from their legitimate purposes, measures adopted by Lord Lytton under the instructions of Lord Beaconsfield, pray for the success of the Conservatives? We cannot but desire their defeat, and yet we do not believe that the Liberals will act up to the sentiments which they are now uttering to discredit their opponents. Mr. Gladstone was Premier twice before; but was India greatly prosperous? We may not, however, hesitate to assert that under his administration there was not one measure adopted which was in its consequences very injurious to this country. We do not, nevertheless, approve of the spirit of the address sent by the *Puna Sárvajanik Sabha* to English electors, in which there is a strong desire expressed that the Liberals may be victorious. It is not wise to show a leaning for any particular party, or to put faith in its political manifesto, which, when the time for action comes, is usually found to be as unreliable as the puffed-up patent medicines of the present day.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 6th, 1880.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 6th April, headed "Parliamentary Elections":—The

return to power of the Liberals under the leadership of Mr. Gladstone is calculated to lead to certain beneficial results. If, in consequence of a liberal majority, Lord Beaconsfield is forced to resign, it will be a proof given for the first time to the nations of the world that decline has not yet really set in among the British people, and that they still possess honour, prestige, and moral scruples. Another result which may be expected to follow will be the revival of the British constitutional principles. Under the political ascendancy of Lord Beaconsfield the power of Parliament has been gradually curtailed, and the liberty of the nation interfered with. The people have suffered, but they have had neither the energy nor the wish to protest. The dangers of this state of lifeless apathy are well known to us. We are aware that if the authorities in this country resolved upon a course of high-handedness, the natives would patiently submit to it. A

rigorous and arbitrary system of administration acts much like opium upon those who are brought under it, so that their condition gradually becomes one in which it is hard to tell whether they are alive or dead. The people of India are now in this condition, and under Lord Beaconsfield's ascendancy the English nation, too, was being gradually reduced to it. The success of the Liberals may lead to a political resuscitation of that people. Their return to power is likely to produce another good result. Under the ascendancy of the Conservatives the war passions of the British public were raised to the highest pitch, and hence were brought about the Zulu and the Afghan wars, which have been attended with such horrible carnage. A Liberal victory will probably result in a satisfactory settlement of Cabul affairs, the averting of difficulties with Burmah and Russia, and the return of the English nation to a peaceful frame of mind. To the people of India a change of ministry will doubtless bring much relief, especially in the matter of the Press Act, the Arms Act, the contemplated disarmament of Native States, and taxation measures. Nowhere have the Conservatives acted more unjustly than in their dealings with the people of India, and this fact has been of great service to their political opponents in the contests for power that are now going on. The defeat of the present ministry will be an example which will doubtless lead future administrators to be more considerate in their conduct towards this country.

4. Writing on the same subject, the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 10th April, makes similar observations in an article which is headed "Good News." The writer

The elections.

prays for the success of the Liberals.

SULABHA SAMACHAR

April 10th, 1880.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, observes that considerable interest is being taken by the people of India in the result of the elections in England. This is a sign of the times, which was never noticed before. There have been many changes of ministries before this, but the natives of this country did not trouble themselves with any question of British party politics. The present, however, is an encouraging feature, for which we should be thankful to Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Lytton. It is they who have by their acts roused the people to a sense of their true condition.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

6. A correspondent of the *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 5th April, remarks that if the proposal to remove the head-

The Nabigunj Munsiffee.

quarters of the Nabigunj Munsiffee to Habigunj be carried out, Nabigunj will be almost reduced to the condition of a deserted village. Already the creation of a sub-division at Habigunj, the transfer of the second Munsiffee to Laskarpore, the reducing of the local post office to the rank of a sub-office, and the creation of a new Munsiffee at Moulvibazar, have considerably destroyed the importance of Nabigunj. The school is in a wretched condition, while crimes have increased. The changes, however, which have thus affected the prosperity of this place have not benefited those in whose interests they were ostensibly carried out. The writer promises to return to this subject in his next letter.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH

April 5th, 1880.

7. Adverting to the rumour that Sir John Strachey is to get a bonus

Sir John Strachey's bonus.

of Rs. 50,000 on the termination of his services, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 6th April asks, could not we do without the services of Sir John Strachey? What has he done for us that we should be bound to pay him a bonus of Rs. 50,000?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI

April 6th, 1880.

8. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 6th April, remarks that Sir Baboo Brajendra Kumar Seal. Ashley Eden has conferred a great boon upon the people of Bengal by appointing Baboo Brajendra Kumar Seal as an Additional Judge. The selection is a wise one.

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA

April 6th, 1880.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 8th, 1880.

9. The same paper writes :—The Maharajah of Durbhunga gave a ball, and was therefore made a member of the Mr. Prestage in the Bengal Council.

Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Prestage, the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has been similarly honored for the service he rendered to the Viceroy when the latter made his recent trip to Darjeeling. How, in this age, could then the gods be said to be asleep? On the contrary, the devotees are now rewarded with a promptness which was rare at any former period.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

The departure of Lord Lytton and Sir Ashley Eden for the hills.

10. The following is also taken from the same paper :—The greater the distance which separates the highest authorities from the metropolis, the better it is for the country, as well as for them. They can then indulge freely in pleasures, and the climate of the hills does good to their health. The people also are gainers, for with their departure for the hills there is an end of those festivities with which the people would almost seem to go mad, and which threaten to send Calcutta to utter destruction. If either Lord Lytton or Sir Ashley Eden had not come to Calcutta, the Rajah of Behar would not have, in all probability, squandered thousands of rupees, wrung from a poor tenantry, for their gratification. In that case certain leaders of Hindu society would not have, in utter disregard of their own social position, shown an eagerness to obtain favours from Government. In that case Baboo Kristodas Paul would not have become anxious to see the powers of the District Road Cess Committees curtailed ; nor would Maharajah Jotendro Mohan Tagore have supported the action of Government in introducing a compulsory system of vaccination. The people profit by the authorities remaining at a distance, for in that case there is no danger of their moral and natural instincts being warped, or of a longing created for idle honors in disregard of the duty which they owe to their native land.

BHARAT MIHIR.
April 8th, 1880.

11. In spite of Mr. Lethbridge's attempted justification, observes the Mr. Lethbridge and the Vernacular *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 6th April, the Vernacular Press Act will continue to be viewed as

a piece of unnecessary legislation. For the punishment of offending editors, the provisions of the Indian Penal Code were amply sufficient. But then, argues Mr. Lethbridge, the Press Act was passed for the purpose of preventing, and not punishing, sedition ; and he further remarks that to accord a formal judicial trial to an offending editor would be only to invest him with greater importance, while giving a wider publicity to the objectionable writing. But the truth is the Press Act provides for punishment which is more severe than what the offence deserves, while the spread of dissatisfaction, which is apprehended if the writer be formally tried, is a result to which Government does not seem really to attach much weight. If it did, the Vernacular Press Act would not now have a place in the Statute-book. This measure has produced lasting discontent, and by making it law Government has struck a serious blow at the progress of vernacular literature.

PRABHÁTI,
April 8th, 1880.

12. The *Prabháti*, of the 6th April, contains a long article on the approaching resignation of Lord Beaconsfield's ministry.

The acts of the present administration, both in India, Afghanistan, and Ireland, are referred to. The Imperial assemblage at Delhi, the Arms Act, the Vernacular Press Act, the Afghan war, the remission of the cotton duties, and the exclusion of the natives of India from the Covenanted Civil Service are noticed with disapprobation. Lord Beaconsfield is described as a god, who has made England, Ireland, and India the scene of his sports, and who indulges in his whims, regardless of the feelings of the people.

PRABHÁTI,
April 7th, 1880.

13. The same paper of the 7th April refers to Mr. Lethbridge's article in the *Contemporary Review* on the Vernacular Press Act. This measure is

Mr. Lethbridge and the Vernacular Press Act.

regarded as a piece of arbitrary legislation which no other Government, however despotic, could easily venture upon introducing. It is a reproach to the British nation, which is famous for its justice. Under it the privilege of judicial trial is denied to an offending editor, a privilege which was extended even to the murderers of the late Justice Norman and Lord Mayo. The prosecutor is the judge—a really monstrous arrangement. It may, however, be confidently predicted that the Vernacular Press Act will not be long allowed to retain its place in the Statute-book.

14. The same paper in another article remarks that if the principle Government and the finances of India. on which Sir Ashley Eden conceived it unfair

that agricultural experiments should be tried in wards' estates at the expense of the minors were made the test whereby to judge the management of the finances of this country by the Imperial Government, that Government would be found wanting in its duty. India is a large estate, and its people are in a sense wards. Is Government making such a wise use of their money as could only be allowed by a conscientious trustee? The costs of suppressing the Sepoy mutiny and the expenses of entertaining the Shah of Persia while on his visit to England were all charged upon Indian revenues, while the costs of the present Afghan war are proposed to be thrown upon the shoulders of this country. This is unjust. India would seem to have become a milch cow to England.

15. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 8th April, refers to the large Liquor shops in Calcutta and the increase of intemperance.

profits made by the owners of liquor shops in Calcutta. The scale of license fees having been raised for this year, some of them have shut up shop, thus causing a loss of Government revenue. These men, however, will not probably suffer by this arrangement, for apart from the circumstance that the loss of revenue usually induces the Collector to lower the license fees, a possibility which they are fully aware of, they will in the meantime resort to the practice of selling liquor privately. They derive such large profits that they are able to maintain extensive establishments, besides paying almost daily offerings to the excise peons and occasional fines for selling liquor beyond the prescribed hours. There has been of late a fearful increase of intemperance for which Government alone is to blame. Not content with providing an almost unlimited supply of country spirits, Government is bringing in large quantities of foreign strong liquors to this country. The out-still system is threatening to ruin the people. Since its introduction the inhabitants of villages have had spirits made available for them at very cheap rates. There have been three stills set up between southern Garia and Barriopore, a distance of only eight miles. In conclusion the writer asks Government to abolish the out-still system and reduce the number of liquor shops.

16. Adverting to the proposal to grant a bonus of Rs. 50,000 to Sir John Strachey's bonus.

Sir John Strachey, the *Prabháti*, of the 10th April, makes the following observations:—Are the people of India in justice bound to pay this sum? Many will doubtless smile, or, it may be, sneer at this question, and say "There is no use in asking whether or not the people of India should be held bound to pay it. They are the conquered, and the British are the conquerors; they are the servants, and the British are the masters. It is therefore simple impertinence on their part to attempt any criticism of what the rulers do. The conquered have no right to criticise the acts of the conquerors." We, however, are not of this opinion. The Government of India is morally bound to find a justification for every measure which it may adopt, and it is therefore desirable that the grounds on which a bonus is proposed to be granted to Sir John Strachey should be made clear. We do not blame Sir John

PRABHÁTI,
April 7th, 1880.

SAMACHÁR CHANDRIKÁ,
April 8th, 1880.

PRABHÁTI,
April 10th, 1880.

Strachey in this matter. The question is whether the pay allowed to him as Finance Minister is sufficient to purchase the services of a really able man. Now it is almost certain that such men as Laing, Wilson, and others, who enjoy a reputation for being good financiers, would be thankful if they got the salary which is attached to the post. Sir John Strachey has inflicted much injury on this country, and does not deserve a bonus at the hands of the people of India. They would, however, gladly pay it, if by so doing they could induce Sir John to retire for good.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 11th, 1880.

17. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 11th April, contains the following notice of the character and administration of Lord Lytton.—Lord Lytton was a tool in the

Retirement of Lord Lytton.
hands of Lord Beaconsfield, and did not possess the slightest independence. "I do whatever I am set to do" was the chief maxim of his public life in this country. It does not appear that he himself understood much of public affairs, but was guided in the management thereof by Sir John Strachey and others among his colleagues. The truth is Sir John Strachey virtually governed the empire, while Lord Lytton was merely the instrument. We are now much exercised in our minds to find out what great acts Lord Lytton leaves behind him to adorn the pages of history. He is an orator and scholar, and his eloquence has often charmed us. The minute he recorded in the Fuller case induced us to look upon him as an impartial ruler, but our opinion was somewhat modified in consequence of his action in the matter of the cotton duties. One thing, however, cannot be denied—he has to a certain extent sought to do justice to the Queen's proclamation of 1858. He it is who has in a manner paved the way for the admission of natives into the higher grades of the public service. For his impartial efforts in this connection he will doubtless be regarded with feelings of veneration by future generations of natives. We are not so sure whether there is any other act the credit of which he can take with him to his country. But, bad or good, he will leave behind him a reputation. There should be a monument erected to him on the plains of Jellalabad, on which should be inscribed in letters of blood the whole history of the Afghan war. The names of Lord Lytton, Sir John Strachey, Colonel Colley, and General Roberts should be engraven on this monument, and on its brow the words "Victory to Lord Beaconsfield" should be written in golden characters. There should be sepulchres in front of this monument of Cavagnari, Jenkins, and other heroes who were untimely cut off in their careers.

DACCA PRAKASH.

18. A correspondent of the same paper remarks that the increased consumption of country spirits, which has been brought about by the introduction of the out-still system in Chittagong.

The out-still system in Chittagong.

still system in the Mofussil, threatens soon to result in a general demoralization. The writer asks that the business of selling liquor, particularly to school boys, should be discontinued at Patia.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
April 11th, 1880.

Corrupt practices of Settlement Officers in Chittagong.

19. A correspondent of the *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 11th April, directs the attention of Government to the corrupt practices on the part of the Settlement Ameens in Chittagong, which have caused extreme harassment to the poor. No work could be done except by giving bribes to these men.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
April 12th, 1880.

The Public Works Cess.

20. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 12th April, dwells on the debate in the Bengal Legislative Council on the amendments proposed by the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal in the Public Works Cess Bill, and particularly on the observations which were made by Sir Ashley Eden. His Honor is reported to have said that the Public Works Cess was not imposed for the purpose of obtaining funds for undertaking famine relief, except so far as that object could be served by

the construction of public works. "We confess," observes the editor, "we do not understand what His Honor means." While imposing the cess, it was clearly stated that its proceeds might be expended on famine relief; and although this purpose is doubtless served in a measure by the construction of works of public utility, still the insertion of a clause in the Bill to the effect that the cess might also be applied for the relief of famine will be of considerable service to a future Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Ashley Eden is a wise and benevolent Governor, and has of his own accord become anxious to see railways constructed. But a future Lieutenant-Governor may have different views on this point, and it is quite possible that under his administration the proceeds of the cess may be wholly expended for a different purpose. Hence the necessity of inserting a distinct provision in the Bill to the effect indicated before.

The editor proceeds to show that although the Bengal Government has no lack of funds, still, owing to the constant demands of the Imperial Government, it has but a small amount left, so that it cannot undertake the works which are deemed necessary in its interests. If therefore it is really desired that the local Governments should be financially independent, it would be well if the amount of contribution to be made by each to the Imperial Exchequer were fixed once for all.

21. We extract the following observations from a paragraph in the *Sahachar* of the 12th April :—Although Lord Lytton.

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1880.

Lord Lytton as an administrator has proved a failure, still there is much that is good in the man. It is conceivable that because he is so good that everybody, high or low, has been thus able to lead him by the nose, and that his work has been so defective. To govern successfully such a vast country as India—the land of so many races—is not a light task; and unless gifted with patience, perseverance, courage, independence, experience, and self-sacrifice, no one would be able to perform it. We do not think the poet-governor possesses these qualities in a due measure.

LOCAL.

22. A correspondent of the *Navavibhákar*, of the 12th April, deprecates the proposal made by the Magistrate and

The Balagor Union.

the District Superintendent of Police to break the Balagor Union into a number of smaller unions. If this were done, there would be no end of trouble and inconvenience to the inhabitants. In a small union comprising three or four villages there would not probably be either a tax office or a tax collector, and if the panchayet were called upon to collect the tax, no respectable person would consent to serve as a member of that body. This would only result in transferring all power from influential men to certain ignorant villagers. Injustice and oppression would be the result of this arrangement. Instead of carrying out this proposal, Government would do well to form all the villages bordering on the river into a second class municipality, and thus to introduce therein sanitary reform and other improvements. The writer further deprecates the proposal to remove the tax office to Jerat, which is three miles distant from the Police outpost, and suggests that it be located in Chandra or Gopinagar.

23. Another writing to the same paper, describes the wretched condition of the village of Pichlia, which is 18 miles distant from Furreedpore. The popula-

The condition of Pichlia.
tion is small and poor, and there are almost no roads in the village. The dense jungle which covers the greater part of the place is a haunt of wild animals. Government is asked to order the construction of a road from Madhukhali to Syudpore.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
April 12th, 1880.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

NAVAVIBHAKA,
April 12th, 1880.

NAVAVIBHAKA.

24. Another, writing to the same paper, asks Government to send medical aid to the inhabitants of pergannah Cholera and small-pox in Midnapore. Keora Mal in the Midnapore district. There is a fearful outbreak of cholera and small-pox in this locality.

25. Another complains in the columns of the same journal that a few subordinate police officers have been recently punished with reduction of pay for having made a complaint against a District Superintendent to the Inspector-General of Police without in the first place having taken the former's permission. It was not possible for them to do this, as the District Superintendent himself was the person complained against. Government is asked to attend to this.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 17th April 1880.